



PRESS RELEASE

Date: Friday, November 4, 2011
District: District 6 – Fresno, Madera, Kings, Tulare & Kern Counties
Contact: Jose Camarena / Caltrans Public Information Officer
Phone: (559) 488-4067
Contact: Officer Axel Reyes / CHP Public Information Officer
Phone: (559) 441-5489

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS AND CHP PREPARED FOR UPCOMING FOG SEASON

Fresno - In an effort to reduce the number of vehicle accidents on local roads and highways during the Central Valley's Winter/Fog Season, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) encourage motorists to modify their driving habits in preparation for upcoming fog and reduced-visibility driving conditions.

The fog/winter driving season in the Central Valley typically begins during the month of November and continues through February. Driving in Winter weather -- snow, ice, wet and fog -- can create dangerous driving conditions for long-distance travelers and daily commuters alike. Keeping your vehicle in good technical repair and slowing-down average driving speeds can reduce your overall chances of a mishap or disaster while driving.

To assist in slowing traffic speeds when visibility is less than 500 feet, the CHP will implement their Pace Program on major highways between Bakersfield and Modesto.

The CHP/Caltrans Central Valley Transportation Management Center (TMC) will provide current information to the media regarding weather and road conditions throughout the Central Valley. Motorists should also tune-in to local radio and television stations for up-to-date traffic and weather information.





PRESS RELEASE

Page 2

Prepare for Winter Driving:

- Plan your driving trips in advance.
- Avoid driving when fatigued.
- Check weather conditions for your travel route (and time) before you begin any trip.
- Plan your arrival time at a destination by taking into account any delays due to slower traffic, reduced visibility, accidents, etc.
- Inform someone of your route and planned arrival time.
- Choose warm and comfortable clothing. If you need to remove any layers of clothing, **NEVER** do so while driving.
- Warm-up your vehicle **BEFORE** you start driving, this reduces the amount of moisture condensing on the inside of the windows.
- **NEVER** warm-up your vehicle in a closed garage.
- Bring a cell phone if you have one.
- Buckle-up before you start driving. Keep your seat belt buckled at all times.
- **SLOW DOWN!** - posted speed limits are for “ideal” driving conditions. Driving at reduced speeds is the best precautionary measure against any loss of control or accidents while driving on slippery roads.
- Do not use Cruise Control in reduced-visibility and/or wet conditions. Winter driving requires you to be in full control at all times.
- Drive with low-beam headlights on. Not only are they brighter than daytime running lights but turning them on also activates the tail lights. This makes your vehicle more visible.
- Lengthen your following distance behind the vehicle ahead of you. Stopping distance on an icy or wet road is double that of stopping on a dry one.
- Steer with smooth and precise movements. Changing lanes too quickly and while braking or accelerating can cause skidding.
- Be patient and pass other cars only when it is safe to do so.

“Slow Your Pace, It’s Not A Race”

###

